

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a method of decoding possibly mutilated code words (r) of a code (C), wherein an information word (m) and an address word (a) are encoded into a code word (c) of said code (C) using a generator matrix (G) and wherein said address words (a) are selected such that address words (a) having a known relationship are assigned to consecutive code words (c), to provide a reliable way of decoding making use of the known relationship, the method includes decoding the differences (D) of a number ($L-1$) of pairs of possibly mutilated code words (r_{ib}, r_{i+1}) to obtain estimates (u, v) for the differences of the corresponding pairs of code words (c_i, c_{i+1}), combining the estimates (u, v) to obtain a number (L) of at least two corrupted versions (w_j) of a particular code word (c), forming a code vector (z) from the number (L) of corrupted versions (w_j) of the particular code word (c) in each coordinate, decoding the code vector (z) to a decoded code word (c') in the code (C), and using the generator matrix (G) to obtain the information word (m) and the address word (a) embedded in the decoded code word (c').